

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- 3 1. In early September 1953 the 2 Battalion, 3 Autonomous Regiment,¹ was at Chiangcheng (N 22-36, E 101-49), Yunnan, and the regiment's 1 and 3 Battalions were at Mengpan (N 21-44, E 101-39) and Mengla (N 21-30, E 101-34). In mid-September the 1 and 3 Battalions were transferred to Ningerh (N 23-03, E 101-15); troops of the 39 Division replaced them in Mengpan and Mengla.
2. In October the 104 Division,² with CHANG Ying-ts'ai (1728/5391/2088) as commander and CH'IAO Feng-p'ei (0829/7685/1014) as deputy commander, was in Chinho (N 22-43, E 103-12). Organization of the 104 Division had begun in early July 1953 and was finished by mid-October.
3. In October the division contained the following components:
- three infantry regiments
 - an artillery battalion
 - an engineer battalion
 - a transport battalion
 - a communications company
 - a health unit with a mobile hospital.
4. In October the 104 Division had a strength of 8,000 men, including 1,500 base troops, 1,000 young students from Yunnan, Szechuan, and Kweichow, and 5,000 men of a "reform through labor" unit (lao kai tui, 0525/2395/7130) who had formerly worked on road construction at Chinho.

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5. In October eighty percent of the division's soldiers, excluding the members of the lao kai tui, were from Yunnan, the remainder coming from Szechuan and Kweichow. Most of the lao kai tui troops were from eastern and southern Yunnan. Since September the men of the lao kai tui have worn military uniforms. Finishing their hard labor in early October, they began receiving military training the same month. This training was supervised by instructors appointed by the Southwest Military Area. Exercises involving live firing were held once a week.
6. In October about 500 troops from the division were stationed in the salient between Mengla (N 22-38, E 103-07) and Maanti³; the rest of the troops were in the Chinping - Tungtsang area, about 15 kilometers west-northwest of Chinho, and at Mengla. About 100 troops of the division, dressed as peasants, were cooperating with the regional militia in guarding the frontier north of Phong Tho (N 22-37, E 103-22), Indochina.

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Comments

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1. Possibly this is the 3 Public Security Regiment which 25X1
 reported in the Chenyueh (N 21-58, E 101-28) area in October 1952 25X1
and May 1953.

2.
reported a 104 Infantry Division in Liuts'un (N 23-15, E 102-04) in June 1953. Possibly both that report and this one refer to the 104 Public Security Division which is tentatively accepted in the Hsiakuan (N 25-34, E 100-12) area of Yunnan. The composition of this division as reported here detracts from the credibility of this report; it is doubtful that any recently formed Chinese Communist military unit would include even a minor percentage of unreliaables, even "reformed" ones.

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3. coordinates for this town were N 22-50, E 103-27.

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